

How England Has Held Down India

By ST. NIHAL SING

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While the educated people of India appear to be content with carrying on wordy warfare over political questions and arraigning the British administrators of Hindostan for inaugurating a reign of terrorism in the country, impending famine is hanging over the heads of the country's 300,000,000 inhabitants. Crops have failed in many sections, and already half-famished Hindooos are face to face with the specter of starvation.

During the latter portion of the British administration of India, famine has followed famine with direful frequency. Within the last 25 years 19,000,000 Hindooos have died of sheer starvation. Grinding poverty is omnipresent in the country that many millions of East-Indians are perpetually in a half-starved condition. The scarcity of food becomes more ploughing and accentuated when times are harder. Then the poor Hindooos, instead of starving inch by inch, are quickly blotted out.

The impoverishment of the masses defies portrayal. It is much uglier, much more poignant and painful than that which is to be found in the Ghettos and poor quarters of American cities. It is estimated that an average East-Indian requires at least a dollar a day and a half a month merely to exist, but since his income is computed by recognized British authorities to be only 50 cents a month, it will be seen that he lives considerably below the poverty line.

During the last two years the government has expended out of the revenues collected from the East-Indian tax-payers over \$130,000,000 in trying to keep the impoverished millions of Hindostan alive. One out of every 16 of the 300,000,000 inhabitants has been in receipt of actual charity relief. This was the case in practically normal years. Now that the scarcity is assuming vaster dimensions and appears to be developing into a colossal famine, a greater proportion of the people will have to be saved at the expense of the public.

The abnormal poverty has augmented the death rate. Figures collected from official records show that mortality has increased from 25 per 1,000 to 35 per 1,000 within the past ten years. Chronic starvation has led to the propagation of cholera and plague to such a fearful extent that during the last decade 5,000,000 East-Indians have perished from the latter.

In such desperate straits the masses of India find themselves today. The very existence of the farmer, the artisan, the workingman, the laborer by day or month, the petty business man and the clerk, is in serious jeopardy through famine and plague.

That India should be sunk in the mire of fearful and agonizing poverty is no cause for wonder. For two centuries or more India has been in the position of a pig, whose throat has been slit and the animal hung up by the heels to permit the blood to drain from its body. Hindostan has been bled—bled profusely, unmercifully, contumuously by a conscienceless and mercenary alien government. The knife thrusts have been directed toward the most vital parts of the latter.

EASY TO PICK OUT UMBRELLA

Englishman Was One That No American Would Carry.

An Englishman who had left a New York hotel for a western trip wrote back asking the manager to look up an umbrella he had forgotten and to keep it for him. The letter contained no description of the umbrella, which was one of several dozen that had been left by departing guests. However, out of the miscellaneous collection on hand the manager picked out one umbrella, tagged it with the Englishman's name, and laid it away for safe keeping. Upon the return of the traveler that umbrella was given him. It proved to be the right one.

"How on earth could you tell it was his?" asked a Dr. Watsonish-kind of clerk with as much awe as if he were addressing Sherlock Holmes himself. "There was no possible way of identifying it."

"Yes, there was," said the manager. "It was the heaviest, clumsiest, ugliest

body politic. The arteries of industry, manufacture and agriculture have been slashed and the life-blood of the country drained away to enrich the occidental island which controls affairs in India.

The aim of the English in India has been to crush the native East Indians, grind their substance into powder, and then employ it as a fertilizer to enrich the British soil. England has built her empire in the orient at the expense of the East-Indian tax-payer, and East Indian men and money have helped even to extend Britain's dominion in Africa, Malta, Crete, etc.

It was a company of British commercialists who founded the British rule in India. To students of history it is patent how the British monopolists, under the aegis of British East-India Company, used notorious and unscrupulous methods to plunder Hindostan. When the British crown took the reins of India in her hands in 1858, the policy of governing India remained unchanged. As in the days of the East-India Company, it continued to be the exploitation of Hindostan for the benefit of the English. It still continues to be the same.

As a direct result of this policy, every means, fair and foul, overt and covert, has been utilized to hold down India and to tighten the British bonds on the unfortunate and famishing people. The lucrative government appointments have been reserved for Englishmen. Each year the British government in addition to paying princely salaries to its own men and women in India, transships \$100,000,000 to England. Seventy-five thousand British soldiers are year after year nurtured and equipped at the expense of the East-Indian tax-payer, nominally to protect India from Russian aggression, but virtually to extend and preserve the solidarity of the British empire in the orient, Africa and elsewhere.

As an essential feature of this policy of repression, England has ceaselessly endeavored, and with great success, to keep fanning the flames of religious and racial animosities among the people. Divide and rule has been the motto of the British official in India, and he has done everything in his power to keep the congeries of East-Indian populace from fusing into one mass of people with a community of interest and with patriotic, nationalist ideals and ambitions. By means of playing the Hindu against the Moslem, the Sikh against the Hindoo, by putting the military races of India and leaguering them against the non-military East-Indians, 150,000 Britishers have despoiled 300,000,000 natives.

The same policy is responsible for emasculating the people in general and the martial races of India in particular.

A spurious system of education, taught from schools and universities built and engineered by British officials, with East-Indian money, has also been used to weaken the people. The young men on graduation from college have found that their physiques have been ruined. Physical culture has been conspicuous in the educational system by its woeful absence. The instruction has been of a nature that has invested the young men and women with a contempt for agricultural and trade work, and has engendered within their hearts a hatred for men and women of sects and castes other than their own. Nothing has been taught in the schools and colleges that would tend toward uniting the people and evolving an East-Indian nation. The history of India has not been given so that it would stimulate the pride of the people and instill in them with the desire to emulate those who have gone before them and to keep abreast of the march of civilization. In the school text books emphasis has been laid on the achievements of foreigners; on what aliens did for India; and much has been made of the degradation in general, and especially of the defeat at arms

of native East Indians who combatting the aggression of the greedy Britishers.

The universities were established in India with a purely economic motive. "The nation of shopkeepers" started the educational system with a view to prepare East-Indian young men to fill the lower ranks in government service. The native agency being as efficient and much cheaper than the British, was given preference. Moreover, the occidentals, unacquainted with the language, customs, religions and modes of life of the natives, and with a very poor capacity for adjusting themselves to the climate and other conditions prevailing in India, and for learning languages, could not carry on the plunder of the country without the assistance of the natives.

That altruistic motives were not responsible for the establishment of schools and colleges in India by the British government is evident for many reasons. The first and foremost is the sad insufficiency of school-houses and teachers in India. Four-fifths of the East-Indian villages are without a school. After a century and a half of British administration more than 99 per cent of East-Indian women and 90 per cent of Hindoo men are utterly illiterate. To show the contrast, it may be mentioned that in less than one-fourth of the time the little kingdom of the mikado has been able to educate its masses almost to the extent of those living in wide-awake occidental countries. Another and a very powerful proof of the sordid motives with which the educational policy was framed and engineered in India is that the British authorities have done practically nothing to train the natives in the use of up-to-date farm and manufacturing machinery and methods. The East-Indian agriculturist and artisan have been allowed to play with their industries in their old-fashioned ways.

While the education has been of a nature which has utterly failed to modernize the people and render them capable of employing the new methods of tilling land and making articles of merchandise, the law has been as made and administered that the people have been reduced to the state of hewers of wood and drawers of water, and their industries have withered and died. The policy of England has been to force India to remain a producer of raw materials, for the benefit of British laborers and manufacturers.

England's repression of India is unrivaled in the history of the world.

As a direct result of the bad administration of Hindostan the people are sunk in poverty, superstition and ignorance, beset with plagues and famines, weak in mind and body. From the standpoint of unity, the trembling millions of India are the worst situated in the world.

But the most令人注目的 feature of British exploitation is that the people have been kept under a state of hypnosis for such a long time that only a small percentage of them are alive to the seriousness of the situation. But the educated community is increasingly awakening to a full realization of the white man's purpose and work in India, and this awakening is developing into a revolution attitude toward the Britisher.

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East-Indian. The wolf of hunger and the red epidemic are slowly but steadily making the ignorant millions pause and consider that something is positively wrong in the system.

They have not yet come into a realization that their country has been woefully bled and that the resources of the land have been misappropriated by foreigners. Their awakening is yet in its infant stage. It is hazy and undefined and as yet a mere speck on the horizon. But it is fast developing and as the educated East-Indians have commenced an aggressive campaign for the uplift of the masses, it is destined to assume greater proportions day by day. Where it is to end, no one can prophesy.

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New Sunday Measure for Italy.

Italy's latest law decrees a weekly day of rest. The measure directs that all industrial and commercial concerns throughout the kingdom must grant their employees a weekly rest of not less than 24 consecutive hours. The general sense of the law is that Sunday shall be the rest day, but it is provided that the period of freedom from work may be given in a day other than on Sunday in certain cases. No attempt is made to apply the new law to transportation services, either rail or water, to places of amusement, or to any of the public utilities.

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ROUND THE CAPITAL

Information and Gossip Picked Up Here and There in Washington.

Marriage to Dissolve Quartet of Belles



that she would not wed the duke, and everybody who has watched developments in the romance confidently believe the royal suitor carried her promise to become his bride. Every preparation was made to formally announce the engagement but it leaked out ahead of time, and then the family of Miss Lillian sealed their lips that the announcement, which will probably come very early in the fall, will not be a surprise.

Miss Madame Tussaud, who will hold sway as Washington's greatest beauty, is spending the summer at the Harbor with her mother, whom she will encounter the Duke d'Alba sometime this summer. The young Spanish belle has been in the eyes of the young American beauties for several years, and her coming to America this year is regarded as proof of his present intentions toward Miss Elsie.

With Miss Isabell May and the Count Hatzfeld it looks as if the Duke of Miss May may not be the only one responsible for the delay in an announcement. Miss May was formerly engaged in her social career with the famous Casanova, but the engagement was broken off because of his profligate ways and she has since abandoned society.

With the threatened dissolution of this beau coup quartet of society belles Washington will have to look to other quarters for its interest before the year is out.

Katherine Elkins has never said

whether she will marry the Duke.

The work of removing the fine granite blocks used in the treasury building and replacing it with new granite recalls to several old-timers the story told now the day the building was selected.

Tradition has it that Andrew Jackson, who was then president of the United States, appointed a committee to select suitable stone for the erecting of a United States Treasury building, and that after viewing over several tracts of land, failed to select a site which could be the site of the building, he selected the White Oak.

The building was commenced in 1833 under the direction of Robert Mills, who was then appointed architect of the building, and it was completed in November, 1835, at a cost of nearly \$1,000,000.

At the time the building was completed it was the largest in the country.

It is said that one morning in 1833 while President Jackson was on his walk he met the chairman of the com-

mission at the meeting of the State Board of Education and the State Board of Agriculture, and they were discussing the building.

It is said that the chairman of the State Board of Education, Mr. George W. Thompson, said to the president, "Sir, we have a fine building here, but it is not fit for a president to live in."

It is said that the president replied, "I don't care if it is not fit for a president to live in."

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